

REMARKS

A. General Comments

With respect to all amendments and cancelled claims, Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any rejections an/or objections made by the Patent Office in this or any previously related case(s). Applicants reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded claim embodiments in future continuation and/or divisional applications.

B. Priority Claim Deletion

Applicants are no longer claiming the benefit of U.S. Serial Nos. 08/446,691 and 08/112,440, filed June 7, 1995, and August 26, 1993, respectively.

C. Examples of Support in Specification for Claim Amendments

1. With respect to the immunostimulatory activity of ISS-PN, references include:

Page 4, line 27 to page 5, line 4; page 6, lines 7-18 and 21-23; page 11, line 8 to page 16, line 2; page 19, lines 12-15; pages 42, lines 16-22 (stating that the ISS-PN may be used as an adjuvant, i.e., along with antigen).

2. With respect to the suppression of IgE production, the use of same in treatment of IgE-related disorders and accomplishment of same through ISS-ODN mediated stimulation of Th1 lymphocyte activation/suppression of Th2 lymphocyte activation, references include:

Page 6, lines 3-6; page 41, lines 8-13; page 41, line 20 to page 42, line 10; page 55, lines 14-15 (statement that Th1 shift is of particular importance in the treatment of allergies); Examples, particularly Examples VI and VII.

3. With respect to ISS-PN mediated shift of the immune response toward a Th1 phenotype and suppress the Th2 immune phenotype, references include:

Page 4, lines 23-26; page 6, lines 3-6; page 39, line 16 to page 42, line 10 and Examples.

4. With respect to-administration of ISS-PN with separately delivered antigen, references include:

Page 7, lines 16-20 ("With co-administration of antigen or a recombinant expression vector encoding antigen, the naked gene expression vectors of the invention serve as adjuvants to enhance the immune response of a host to an antigen."); page 42, lines 16-22.

D. Data Further in Proof of the Principle of the Invention

A duplicate of the Declaration of Dr. Eyal Raz under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 which was submitted on September 6, 1998 in the parent application is submitted herewith for entry in this continuation application. The data supplied with Dr. Raz's Declaration provides further evidence that antibody production, cytotoxic T cell production and Th1 cytokine release (with concomitant reduction in antigen-stimulated IgE production) are all stimulated in the presence of ISS-PN, in the manner now claimed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this Amendment, or believes discussion concerning the application would advance prosecution, he or she is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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